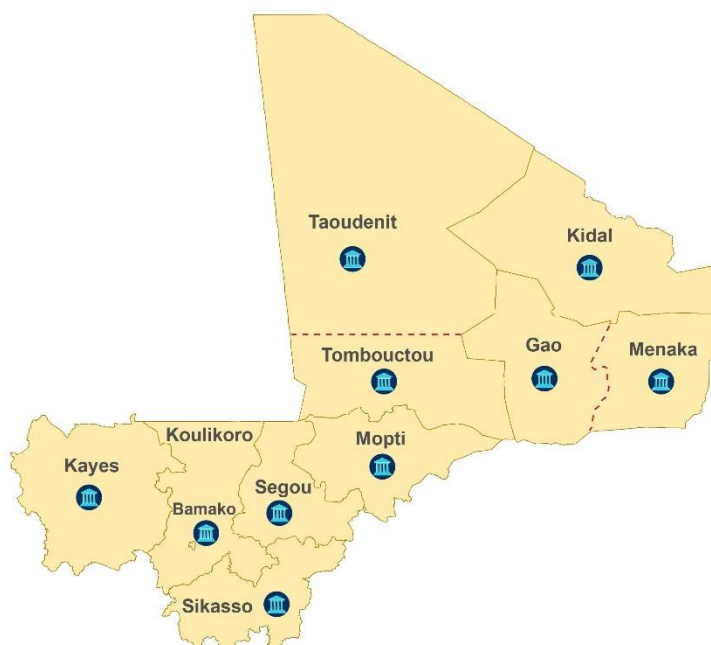




Photo Credit: USAID

USAID MALI

PEACE, DEMOCRACY, AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Peace, Democracy, and Governance Office addresses core peacebuilding and democratic governance needs in Mali. This includes a focus on key U.S. Foreign Assistance priorities to advance peace, democracy, and human rights such as the Security Governance Initiative; Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership; Countering Violent Extremism; Women, Peace, and

Security; and anti-trafficking in Persons.

ELECTIONS

USAID Mali's election support activities assist with Mali's political transition to institutionalize more effective and democratic political governance. These activities improve the capacity, inclusivity, integrity, and transparency of Mali's electoral system to hold credible elections allowing citizens to select their leaders peacefully and democratically. USAID's support leverages two decades of institutional partnerships formed with Malian civil society including women's organizations, media, political parties, and electoral management bodies to enhance citizen engagement and transparency in Malian electoral processes. Additionally, USAID's partnerships with local organizations help to prevent and mitigate electoral violence around electoral processes.

JUSTICE/RULE OF LAW

USAID Mali supports central services of the Ministry of Justice by collaborating with administrative, financial, and reporting functions of the formal justice sector. This support directly responds to Mali's Justice Programming Act (2020–2024). Further, USAID Mali works to enhance the public's access to justice in communities and in courtrooms with more than 20,000 Malians (over half women) reached since 2015 through grantees activities including legal awareness sessions, legal advice, legal representation, and mediation. USAID Mali provides support to its local grantees through mentoring, and training of trainers on various issues relevant to their work such as legal clinic management, alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, strategic litigation, ethics in the delivery of legal aid to vulnerable populations, legal awareness techniques, combating trafficking in persons, and the holistic assistance for women survivors of violence.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

USAID Mali's anti-corruption efforts focus on strengthening the technical and operational capacity of key partners to build long-term sustainability. USAID Mali also implements activities that bridge national and regional-level initiatives through local partners' advocacy; strengthen private sector compliance with trade and other business regulations through trainings and the development of guidelines, manuals and related resources; provide legal support and education to traders and transporters through our network of Civic Advocacy Offices, Watch Cells, legal aid clinics and paralegals; and build intolerance to corruption in the public and private sectors through strategic communications and public awareness campaigns. USAID Mali strengthens the technical and operational capacities of regional partners through the implementation of a strategic sustainability plan, notably through consolidation and leveraging of its ongoing achievements and results, and the empowerment of its five local branches in the Sikasso region. A more collaborative engagement with regional control authorities has been adopted and is bearing fruit in resolving corridor users' complaints involving control officers in a more constructive manner.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

USAID Mali strengthens citizens' advocacy and leadership skills to be active and effective partners of the government in policy development through the planning and implementation of community development action plans. Community-based organizations are strengthened to hold the government accountable through periodic mechanisms for external oversight of public resource use. USAID also focuses on citizens' understanding of their rights and responsibilities to support the full engagement of local authorities in all community development activities, especially during periods of crisis. Interventions are inclusive, with a focus on women, youth, and vulnerable population

CVE/STABILIZATION

The purpose of USAID's Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and Stabilization activities is to contribute to peace and reconciliation in Mali by supporting vulnerable communities as they build capacity at the local level to address and mitigate conflict, radicalization, and violent extremism. Mali's protracted conflict and political crisis continues amid increased instability during the current political transition. USAID continues to support communities experiencing conflict at a time of significant increases in violent incidents against civilians and security forces, intercommunal conflict, and internally displaced populations. Our efforts help to provide hope and alternatives by supporting local leaders and vulnerable populations to promote peace, reconciliation, and inclusive governance.